

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-29 (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method for providing a temperature regulated source of heat exchange fluid for heat exchange catheters, comprising the steps of:

providing a circuit comprising an external heat exchanger, a pump, a heat exchange catheter, and air vents, said external heat exchanger, pump and heat exchange catheter in fluid communication such that fluid pumped by the pump is circulated through said heat exchange catheter and said external heat exchanger, and said air vents allow passage of gas in and out of said circuit through said vents but do not allow passage of liquid in and out of said circuit ~~[[though]]~~ through said air vents;

providing a heat generating or removing unit in heat exchange relationship with said external heat exchanger;

providing an external fluid source in fluid communication with said circuit;

circulating heat exchange fluid from said external source through said circuit by means of pumping with said pump while simultaneously venting any gas contained in said circuit out through said air vents; and

controlling the temperature of said heat exchanger fluid in said circuit by controlling the temperature of said heat generating or removing unit.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 further comprising the steps of:
providing a valve between said external fluid source and said circuit, said valve having an open position which permits the flow of heat exchange fluid from said external fluid source into said circuit and a closed position which prevents the flow of heat exchange fluid from said external fluid source to said circuit;
providing a level sensor within said circuit to sense when the fluid level in said circuit is full, said level sensor generating a signal in response to said full fluid level;
initially maintaining said valve in said open position until said sensor senses that the fluid level in said circuit is at an adequately full level; and
operating said valve into said closed position in response to said signal.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of controlling the pressure of said fluid as said fluid is circulated through said circuit.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein said pressure control comprises a pressure regulator in fluid communication with said circuit.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said pressure regulator is a pressure damping mechanism.

35. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein said pump is operated by an electric motor, and said pressure is controlled by maintaining a predetermined current to said electric motor.

Claim 36 (Canceled)